



BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP

CUSTOMER NUMBER 25267

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group:	Unknown	}	<u>Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)</u>
Atty. Docket:	8266-1137	}	I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
Applicants:	Welling et al.	}	with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in
Invention:	PATIENT SUPPORT	}	an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents,
Serial No.:	10/648,053	}	P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Filed:	August 26, 2003	}	on <u>November 13, 2003</u>
Examiner:	Unknown	}	<u>Norman J. Hedges</u>
		}	Norman J. Hedges
		}	Dated: <u>11-13-03</u>

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Applicant calls attention to the art references within the knowledge of applicant and its attorney which are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made or that no better art references are available. The filing of this statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 1.56(b).

REMARKS

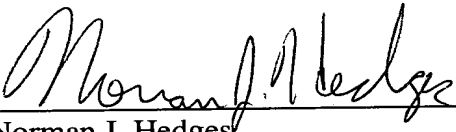
The references listed on the PTO Form 1449 were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application Serial No. 09/750,859, filed December 29, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,611,979, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of these cited references are not being supplied with this Information Disclosure Statement.

None of the art cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.

Please charge any fees that might be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Bose McKinney & Evans LLP's Deposit Account No. 02-3223. An extra copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP



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FORM PTO-144 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1137	SERIAL NO. 10/648,053
	APPLICANT Welling et al.	
	FILING DATE August 26, 2003	GROUP Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	AA	585,834	07/06/1897	Ruth			
	AB	595,734	12/21/1897	Rand et al.			
	AC	598,054	01/25/1898	Meany			
	AD	1,261,040	04/02/1918	Lanes			
	AE	1,398,203	11/22/1921	Schmidt			
	AF	2,245,909	10/19/1937	Enfajian			
	AG	2,281,209	04/28/1942	Smith			
	AH	2,452,366	10/26/1948	Freund			
	AI	2,556,591	06/12/1951	Loxley			
	AJ	2,564,083	08/14/1951	Stechert			
	AK	2,605,151	07/29/1952	Shampaine			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	WO99/15126	04/01/1999	PCT				
	AM	GB 2 313 303 A	11/28/1997	United Kingdom				
	AN	DE 2310603	03/02/1973	Germany				
	AO	0 349 067 A1	01/03/1990	European Patent Office				
	AP	0 349 067 B1	06/21/1989	European Patent Office				
	AQ	0 485 362 A3	12/16/1986	European Patent Office				

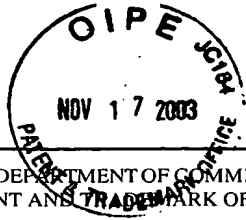
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR	Akrotech 4000 Brochure, LUMEX, 1992
	AS	"Impression" TM Brochure, Kinetic Concepts, Inc., August, 1996
	AT	

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DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	BA	2,766,463	10/16/1946	Bendersky			
	BB	2,869,614	01/20/1959	Wamsley			
	BC	3,003,160	10/10/1961	Goodman			
	BD	3,010,121	11/28/1961	Breach			
	BE	3,053,568	09/11/1962	Miller			
	BF	3,099,440	07/30/1963	Burzlauff			
	BG	3,112,500	12/03/1963	MacDonald			
	BH	3,138,805	06/30/1964	Piazza			
	BI	3,195,151	07/20/1965	Boyer			
	BJ	3,210,779	10/12/1965	Herbold			
	BK	3,220,021	11/30/1965	Nelson			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

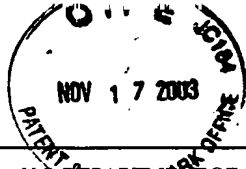
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	BL	0 218 301 A2	10/03/1986	European Patent Office				
	BM	GB 2 169 195 A	07/09/1986	United Kingdom				
	BN	0 341 570 A3	11/15/1989	European Patent Office				
	BO	GB 2 015 872 A	10/17/1978	United Kingdom				
	BP							
	BQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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	BS	
	BT	

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FORM PTO-1449

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ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1137

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	CA	3,220,022	11/30/1965	Nelson			
	CB	3,233,255	02/08/1966	Propst			
	CC	3,239,853	03/15/1966	MacDonald			
	CD	3,309,717	03/21/1967	Black			
	CE	3,406,772	10/22/1968	Ahrent et al.			
	CF	3,456,269	07/22/1969	Goodman			
	CG	3,640,566	02/08/1972	Hodge			
	CH	3,665,528	05/30/1972	Kjellberg et al.			
	CI	3,822,425	07/09/1974	Scales			
	CJ	3,845,947	11/05/1974	Lee			
	CK	3,893,197	07/08/1975	Ricke			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	CN							
	CO							
	CP							
	CQ							

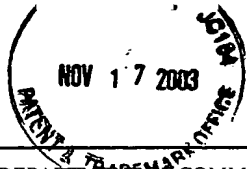
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	DA	3,897,973	08/05/1975	Long et al.			
	DB	3,905,591	09/16/1975	Schorr et al.			
	DC	3,916,461	11/04/1975	Kerstholt			
	DD	4,127,906	12/05/1978	Zur			
	DE	4,139,917	02/20/1979	Fenwick			
	DF	4,168,099	09/18/1979	Jacobs et al.			
	DG	4,183,109	01/15/1980	Howell			
	DH	4,193,149	03/18/1980	Welch			
	DI	4,225,989	10/07/1980	Corbett et al.			
	DJ	4,240,169	12/23/1980	Roos			
	DK	4,258,445	03/31/1981	Zur			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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	DL						
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	DN						
	DO						
	DP						
	DQ						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	DR						
	DS						
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	EA	4,312,500	01/26/1982	Janssen			
	EB	4,336,621	06/29/1982	Schwartz et al.			
	EC	4,409,695	10/18/1983	Johnston et al.			
	ED	4,411,035	10/25/1983	Fenwick			
	EE	4,453,732	06/12/1984	Assanah et al.			
	EF	4,542,547	09/24/1985	Sato			
	EG	4,545,084	10/08/1985	Peterson			
	EH	4,557,471	12/10/1985	Parzini			
	EI	4,675,926	06/30/1987	Lindblom et al.			
	EJ	4,685,159	08/11/1987	Oetiker			
	EK	4,751,754	06/21/1988	Bailey et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	EN							
	EO							
	EP							
	EQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
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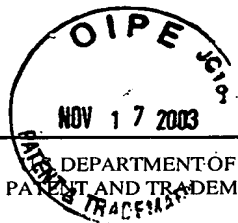
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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	FA	4,769,584	09/06/1988	Irigoyen et al.			
	FB	4,797,962	01/17/1989	Goode			
	FC	4,811,435	03/14/1989	Foster et al.			
	FD	4,847,929	07/18/1989	Pupovic			
	FE	4,856,123	08/15/1989	Henderson et al.			
	FF	4,858,260	08/22/1989	Failor et al.			
	FG	4,862,529	09/05/1989	Peck			
	FH	4,862,530	09/05/1989	Chen			
	FI	4,894,876	01/23/1990	Fenwick			
	FJ	4,944,055	07/31/1990	Shainfeld			
	FK	4,974,905	12/04/1990	Davis			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	FL							
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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	GA	5,040,253	08/20/1991	Cheng			
	GB	5,072,463	12/17/1991	Willis			
	GC	5,077,843	01/07/1992	Foster et al.			
	GD	5,095,561	03/17/1992	Green et al.			
	GE	5,103,519	04/14/1992	Hasty			
	GF	5,105,486	04/21/1992	Peterson			
	GG	5,129,117	07/14/1992	Celestina et al.			
	GH	5,148,562	09/22/1992	Borders et al.			
	GI	5,157,787	10/27/1992	Donnellan et al.			
	GJ	5,157,800	10/27/1992	Borders			
	GK	5,193,633	03/16/1993	Ezenwa			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	GL						
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	GN						
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	GR						
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	HA	5,205,004	04/27/1993	Hayes et al.			
	HB	5,230,113	07/27/1993	Foster et al.			
	HC	5,235,258	08/10/1993	Schuerch			
	HD	5,235,713	08/17/1993	Guthrie et al.			
	HE	5,267,364	12/7/93	Volk			
	HF	5,279,010	01/18/1994	Ferrand et al.			
	HG	5,367,728	11/29/1994	Chang			
	HH	5,454,126	10/03/1995	Foster et al.			
	HI	5,479,666	01/02/1996	Foster et al.			
	HJ	5,577,279	11/26/1996	Foster et al.			
	HK	5,666,681	09/16/1997	Meyer et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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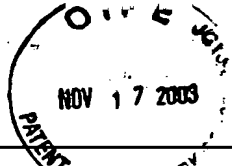
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	IA	5,701,618	12/30/97	Brugger			
	IB	5,715,548	02/10/1998	Weismiller et al.			
	IC	5,745,937	05/05/1998	Weismiller et al.			
	ID	5,934,280	08/10/1999	Viard et al.			
	IE	6,089,593	07/18/2000	Hanson et al.			
	IF	5,398,354	03/21/1995	Balonick et al.			
	IG	5,781,949	07/21/1998	Weismiller et al.			
	IH	6,212,714	04/10/2001	Allen et al.			
	II	6,223,369	05/01/2001	Maier et al.			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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